

**United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Examiner: M. Rashid

Art Unit: 3657

Docket No. 3759

In re:

Applicant: TARHAN, R., et al

Serial No.: ~~10~~/591,896

Filed: 09/07/2006

**AMENDMENT**

April 6, 2010

Hon. Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sirs:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action of March 11,  
2010.

In the Office Action the Examiner indicated that the present application contained claims directed to the patentably distinct species, namely:

Species A: Figures 1-3;

Species B: Figures 4-5.

The Examiner required to elect a signal disclosed species for further prosecution.

With the present communication applicants provisionally elected for further prosecution the species of Group A.

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-12, 18 and 21 are readable on the elected species.

At the same time the Examiner's election requirement is respectfully traversed.

The present application is a national phase application of PCT application PCT/EP2005/055001. Therefore, the present application has to follow PCT regulations, in particular Rule 13. In accordance with this rule, different species can be prosecuted in a single application if they have a common inventive idea.

It is respectfully submitted that both species identified by the Examiner in this application include the feature of "meshing in the axial direction with one another by formlocking and that the formlocking device is embodied as a separate, independent structural unit."

It is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the Examiner's election requirement and to examine in this application the claims related to both species, in particular all the claims currently on file.

Consideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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